

ASCL 60.05: Love and Desire in Modern Chinese Literature:

Spanning a selection of short stories and novels from the early twentieth century to the turn of the millennium, this course explores connections between themes of filial piety, nationalism, revolutionary idealism, nostalgia for the past, ideological constraints placed on love, and attempts to subvert those constraints. Readings and discussions will relate the works covered to key intellectual and political movements, connecting ideas of individual romance and disillusionment to larger issues of modernity and globalization. Some of the works we will read include Anchee Min's *Red Azalea*, Shen Congwen's *Border Town*, Wei Hui's *Shanghai Baby*, and Wang Anyi's *The Song of Everlasting Sorrow: A Novel of Shanghai*. No prior acquaintance with the Chinese language is required. All texts will be given in English translation, although you are welcome to read any of the texts in the original. By the end of this course, you will become familiar with several of the major literary movements in twentieth-century China, along with selected works and authors belonging to those movements. Through writing assignments, presentations, and class discussions (on Canvas and on Zoom), you will also explore how selected literary themes manifest themselves in various texts and learn to critically analyze the commonalities and differences in those manifestations.